



WHY?

THINKING ABOUT WASTE AND RECYCLING...

On average, everyone in America generated 4.34 pounds of waste per day in 2009 and recycled or composted 1.46 pounds of that material, or 33.8 percent, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Recycling rates are going up, but so generally are waste generation rates. While people in the United Kingdom have reduced their waste generation to 2.9 pounds per day, the last time Americans generated 2.9 pounds of waste per day was 1965.

Most people do not want to produce a lot of waste and do know that recycling is the “right” thing to do, but there are many things that are good for us that we don’t do, and many bad things that we do. Until the good habits are ingrained, people can be swayed by convenience and information.

At multi-family properties, resident boards of directors and property managers can facilitate waste reduction and ensure on-site recycling programs enable rather than obstruct resident recycling. But what’s the incentive?

- Image – A well maintained trash and recycling program, with plenty of capacity for residents to recycle, looks good. It is an easy indicator to potential new residents of how well the property is maintained. Many properties advertise luxury living. Luxury is clean, easy, and convenient -- not having to walk very far to recycle, not having to compress other people’s recycling to make room for your own, not having to guess which container is for what material. Luxury is having a recycling bin and recycling guidelines already in the apartment before moving in, and having donation trucks scheduled regularly to facilitate household good donation.
- Cost – Recycling collection service costs less than trash collection service for the exact same service, i.e. same size container and collection frequency. As Dawn Wunderle, Regional Property Manager with Home Properties, reported at the April 5th Multi-Family Recycling Seminar, she is now saving \$670 per month in collection costs at one of her 132-unit properties as a result of almost tripling the recycling capacity, cutting the size of the trash dumpsters in half, and renegotiating the collection contract. And the more material residents donate, the less they will dispose of on site.
- Environment – It feels good to do things, and even better, to enable others to do things, that help protect the environment. Recycling, simply put, helps us use our natural resources efficiently, so that they last longer. With a triple bottom line, what feels good -- conserving natural resources, reducing energy consumption, and minimizing the amount of pollution entering our environment -- is just as important as “people” and “profit” in determining business success.

If you would like information for your residents or assistance with your recycling and waste reduction programs, please contact the TRRAC program at 240-777-6446. Together, we are making a difference.

NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE BACK DAY: APRIL 30, 2011

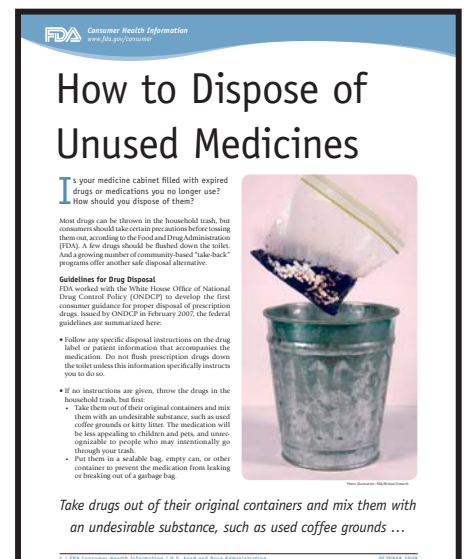
On Saturday, April 30, 2011, from 10:00am to 2:00pm, residents can safely dispose of unwanted and unused prescription drugs at many police stations in our area that will be participating in the National Prescription Drug Take Back Day. The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, in conjunction with state and local law enforcement agencies throughout the United States, is conducting this event to combat the abuse of prescription drugs. More than seven million Americans currently abuse prescription drugs, according to the 2009 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration's National Survey on Drug Use and Health. Each day, approximately, 2,500 teens use prescription drugs to get high for the first time according to the Partnership for a Drug Free America. Studies show that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including the home medicine cabinet. To find drop-off locations near your property, visit www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback/index.html.

Turn in your unused or expired
medication for safe disposal
Saturday, April 30th



Since you may get asked how residents can safely dispose of prescription drugs outside of these occasional take back programs, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has guidance available on their website (www.fda.gov/ForConsumers/ConsumerUpdates/ucm101653.htm) and has created a flyer that you can post to your property's website or make available in your property office. The guidance was developed by the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, and it includes additional tips from the FDA. The guidelines are summarized as follows:

1. Follow any specific disposal instructions on the drug label or patient information that accompanies the medication. Do not flush prescription drugs down the toilet unless this information specifically instructs you to do so.
2. If no instructions are given on the drug label and no take-back program is available in your area, dispose of the drugs in the household trash, but first:
 - Take them out of their original containers and mix them with an undesirable substance, such as used coffee grounds or kitty litter. The medication will be less appealing to children and pets, and unrecognizable to people who may intentionally go through your trash.
 - Put them in a sealable bag, empty can, or other container to prevent the medication from leaking or breaking out of a garbage bag.
3. Before recycling empty medicine containers, scratch out all identifying information on the prescription label to make it unreadable. This will help protect your identity and the privacy of your personal health information.
4. Do not give medications to friends. Doctors prescribe drugs based on a person's specific symptoms and medical history. A drug that works for you could be dangerous for someone else.
5. When in doubt about proper disposal, talk to your pharmacist.



FDA prescription drug disposal guidance flyer

For some medicines, medical supplies, and medical equipment, an alternative to disposal is donation. The County's "Use It Again" database currently lists seven organizations that collect and redistribute these items, including the Maryland Prescription Drug Repository Program, which allows Maryland Board of Pharmacy-approved repositories and/or drop-off sites to accept donated prescription drugs and medical supplies for the purpose of dispensing the donated drugs to needy individuals. Visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/useitagain, and select the "Medicine & Medical Equipment" category to see current opportunities.

Calendar of Events

Saturday, April 30, 2011

NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE BACK DAY

10:00am to 2:00pm

For more information and locations near you, visit

www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback/index.html

Wednesday, May 4, 2011

BETHESDA GREEN'S GREENING CONDOS SERIES

7:00pm to 9:00pm

4825 Cordell Avenue, Suite 200, Bethesda, Maryland 20814

"No-Cost/Low-Cost Ways to Get Started Creating an Eco-Friendly Building"

To RSVP or for more information, visit www.bethesdagreen.org

May 22 - May 27, 2011

MONTGOMERY COUNTY RECYCLING AWARENESS WEEK

Promoting recycling and waste reduction in the county, and recognizing outstanding achievements in recycling, waste reduction, and buying recycled by local businesses, multi-family properties, and individuals.

Thursday, June 9, 2011

MONTGOMERY COUNTY MULTI-FAMILY RECYCLING SEMINAR

10:00am to 2:00pm

Upcounty Regional Services Center

12900 Middlebrook Road, Germantown, Maryland 20874

For information about these events, call 240-777-6446

or visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/recycling



RESIDENTS, JOIN US MAY 4TH!

Greening Condos is a free series of panel discussions focusing on greening condominiums that is hosted by Bethesda Green, ecobeco, and various event sponsors.



The series targets residents, boards, property managers, and companies that provide green services to condominiums. The goal of the series is to empower residents to take action to improve their building's environmental impact, recycle more, reduce energy consumption, and reduce building costs in the process.

The May 4th panel will focus on steps to making buildings more eco-friendly that involve little or no cost. In addition to a speaker from our Multi-Family Recycling Program, speakers include representatives from Pepco's Home Energy Savings Program, the Maryland Clean Energy Center, Clean Currents, and ecobeco.

Panel discussions will continue on June 1st and July 6th.

County-Sponsored Paper Shredding/Recycling & Donation Drop-off Events!

**Saturday, April 30, 2011
10:00am to 2:00pm**

Walter Johnson High School
6400 Rock Spring Drive
Bethesda, Maryland 20814



**Saturday, June 25, 2011
10:00am to 2:00pm**

White Oak Middle School
12201 New Hampshire Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland 20904

**Sunday, May 22, 2011
10:00am to 2:00pm**

Northwest High School
13501 Richter Farm Road
Germantown, Maryland 20874

Activities will occur rain or shine.

- Montgomery County residents only; no businesses permitted.
- Paper Shredding Limit: Five paper grocery bags or small boxes.
- Paper will be shredded on-site.
- Donations: Bring clean clothing, household goods, and small furniture that are in usable condition. Please place loose items in bags or boxes.
- For details, visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/recycling.

Please help spread the word to your residents! Flyers are available for distribution at your property, either electronically or via paper copies. The electronic file can be downloaded from our website, and paper copies can be obtained by calling 240-777-6446.

Services provided by, and partners in this event are, Office Paper Systems, A Wider Circle, Goodwill of Greater Washington, and National Children's Center, Inc.



April 2011

RECYCLE MORE NOW!

MONTGOMERY COUNTY
DIVISION OF SOLID WASTE SERVICES

Multi-Family Recycling Program
Contact: Lauren Kuhn
101 Monroe Street, 6th Floor
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Office: 240-777-6446
TTY: 240-777-6442
Fax: 240-777-6465
Website: www.montgomerycountymd.gov/recycling
E-mail: lauren.kuhn@montgomerycountymd.gov

County Recycling Center Tours 301-417-1433

To receive this newsletter electronically, simply subscribe at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/recycling.
This information is available in an alternative format by calling Lauren Kuhn at 240-777-6446.

 Printed on recycled and recyclable paper

WHAT'S ON YOUR WEBSITE?

Many multi-family properties and/or management companies have websites or resident portals. Does your website mention how to recycle at your property, or more generally how to recycle at multi-family properties in Montgomery County? Combining your property-specific information with the County's online resources will help your residents find the information they need to help them reduce, reuse, and recycle MORE!

Suggestions on what to include:

- 🌐 A basic description of your recycling program, especially where the recycling containers are located.
- 🌐 Information on what residents should do if their bulk items cannot be donated; include who to contact and where to place the items.
- 🌐 Information on any extra recycling or waste reduction programs you offer, such as recycling collection for batteries or plastic bags, or regular donation or paper shredding/recycling days.
- 🌐 A link to our YouTube video that explains how, why, and what to recycle at multi-family properties in Montgomery County. It is a great 14-minute introduction for residents new to the county or to apartment/condominium living. www.youtube.com/mcrecycles.
- 🌐 A link to the Montgomery County "how to recycle/dispose of..." webpage, that provides helpful information regarding how to recycle or dispose of just about everything people can think of! www.montgomerycountymd.gov/recycling.
- 🌐 A link to the County's "Use It Again" database. In three easy steps, residents can search for opportunities to get the most out of items by either renting, repairing, donating or selling them used! www.montgomerycountymd.gov/useitagain.



Our multi-family recycling video is on YouTube!